



News on the Ninth

Gusford Celebration Newsletter – Issue 77 – 9th November 2016

Y1 Meerkats & their police work

The Meerkat's found out this month that the Wolf had escaped from the Woodcutter and was in the local area lurking outside the school. As a class we had already read the story of the 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'The Three Little Pigs' and knew exactly what crimes the wolf had committed. They were challenged to write a Wanted Poster that explained clearly what he had done and why he needed to be caught and a good description of what he looked like. Emilia's writing did that perfectly and her writing was chosen to be taken to the police station.

You need to catch the big bad wolf because he has been naughty and mean. The big bad wolf has sharp teeth and gloomy eyes. He has fluffy fur. You need to catch him before he locks any more grandmas up and gets Gusford children.

Emilia Jaye



Grandma's slippers and nightie in evidence bags

The following week Mrs Clark celebrated the good news with the children and rewarded Emilia for her amazing writing and the rest of the class for their superb efforts with stickers. She brought in some evidence bags which had Grandma's nightgown and slippers in to show the children how the wolf had been caught. We also received this letter:





Gusford's Learning Bus



All aboard the learning bus! Gusford has bought a bus for extra learning space. The bus was previously used as a learning bus for older students, with its seats removed and set up for groups to work in.

We plan for it to stay in one place and for it to be used for small group work. There was a lot of excitement on Monday morning when the children arrived to see the bus on the playground and lots of children were enthusiastic to do their learning on the bus. We are currently arranging for power and light to the bus and arranging some furniture and we hope to have it usable in the next few weeks. We will then decide how we will decorate the bus to suit Gusford.

We will keep you informed.

School Council

The new School Council have been busy meeting and making plans for this year. Our first event is Children in Need.

On Friday 18th November, we will be holding a non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need. I hope you will support us in raising money for this extremely worthwhile cause by dressing up in something spotty and yellow, just like Pudsey Bear! We will be thinking about the importance of raising money for Children in Need during our assemblies that week, and considering the impact the money we raise could have in helping those less fortunate.

Lead Now - 5M

Year 5 have been enjoying our work on 'Lead Now' and focusing on our potential. This week, we each took a sunflower seed and thought about the potential of that seed. We mapped out the seed's journey, from one tiny seed to a newly-grown pumpkin, all the way to a pumpkin farm that could produce food for huge numbers of people! The seed symbolises our own potential which, given the right conditions and support, is huge.

We linked our ideas to the potential of our donations for Children in Need this year – on its own, £1 may not seem like it could make a huge difference, but with our combined school effort we could make a big difference to the work done by Children in Need around the country.

PiXL Edge Learning Behaviours

This term we have introduced a new character from the Primary Edge family: Izzy Initiative. That means that we will be particularly interested in helping children to put themselves forward, think for themselves and develop their own ideas.

In the Key Stage 1 and Early Years, our command words are Take Responsibility, Take Part, Suggest and Discover, so those Year 2 children who have auditioned for our Christmas production have already notched up a mark on their charts. In Key Stage 2, the command words are Audition/Trials, Volunteer (Take Part), Research and Develop, Set Up, Suggest, Enter and Create.

Don't forget, children are encouraged to submit evidence of initiative from their lives beyond school, so if they have entered a competition or attended trials for, say, a sports team, their teachers would love to hear about it.

Year 4 will be encouraged to find evidence of initiative as they continue to work towards their Contender Award. Year 3 will continue to work on organisation as they have only just started the Contender programme.

Mr Davies



Y2 Reading

In Year 2, we have introduced a series of weekly homework tasks focusing on the development of reading skills. This is in addition to our expectation that parents will read 5-7 times per week with their children and comment in their reading diaries.

The reading tasks are designed to help children engage with books at a deeper level than just reading the words and hopefully they provide a vehicle for parents and carers to discuss texts in a fun way. Judging by the often hilarious work that children did in rewriting the end of traditional tales, for example, this new initiative seems to be catching everyone's imagination. There has certainly been a very good response and we would like to thank parents and carers for supporting us and their children in this way.

Mr Davies

Y2 Foxborough Farm

As part of our science topic, Year 2 spent a wonderful day at Foxborough farm, investigating pond, meadow and woodland habitats. Mercifully, the weather was kind to us (unlike last year) and we had a fascinating time looking for wildlife clues and encountering a wide range of flora and fauna.

Pond dipping is always a great adventure and it is lovely to hear the children's excitement at discovering the wealth of animal life that lurks beneath the surface of seemingly calm waters. The energetic backswimmer, complete with its own silvery pocket of air, is always a favourite.

In the meadow, we investigated the effectiveness of camouflage as we pretended to be birds, hunting for pipe-cleaner 'caterpillars' in a hedge. No prizes for guessing which colours were the hardest to find amongst the green leaves and brown branches. We also tracked down a wide variety of animal life sheltering under logs in the field with newts and frogs probably being the most memorable.

Woodland creatures were harder to find, but there were plenty of clues that they were there, from squirrel-nibbled pinecones to freshly-dug rabbit holes and even a fox earth. We also learned a fun way of estimating the age of a tree by hugging it.

It was a lovely day. The children were a credit to us all and one of the farm's staff commented on how they have learned to expect super behaviour from Gusford

pupils. Thanks to Ms Gray for organising it and to all the staff and parent helpers who made it possible.

Y6 - Bikeability



During the week, year 6 were allowed to go on an amazing course with Adam and Andy. It is called Bikeability, where we did a variety on challenges, and it went up to level 2.

At the start we rode on the playground, but by the end we were going on the main road and turning in and out of junctions! Firstly we had cones, and we had to avoid them but the more time we had the more intense and harder it gets. At the end we had to look over to our right then shout out the colours.

The hardest part was the indicating at a junction and hold it for three seconds before turning and look behind whilst doing it. We had two main priorities - hogging and sharing. The safest one is sharing because cars can overtake you but hogging was very important as well. Because if you go to a junction you will need to hog.

We loved Bikeability because it was really fun and I would really recommend it to the year 5 pupils next year.

By Amy M and Isabelle Y



Reception Family Café



This week The Foundation Stage had their second 'Family Café'. Parents and grandparents came into school to work alongside their children. It was fantastic to see the children excited to share their learning with their adults! The Reception children enjoyed using practical equipment to demonstrate their mathematical skills and understanding to their adults. They were able to use their previous learning; describing shapes using shape vocabulary, sorting shapes and adding two numbers together.



Adults and children particularly enjoyed using the iPads to find the 'duck' and talk about where the duck was, using positional language. It was lovely to see so many adults. Thank you to all those who attended.

Lead Now - Lemurs



Year 1 Lemurs have continued their work on 'Lead Now', learning how to lead themselves. As part of this they looked at seven leadership mindsets that can help you overcome challenges. The first one is to 'lift up your head' and Mr Webber used this in PE.

The children were learning to lift their heads up! They began the session with their heads bent looking at floor and toes discussing what they could see then they were asked to lift up their heads allowing them to see the challenges ahead. As a class we pretended to be both chickens- low on the floor and eagles on our tip toes to see the difference and reflected on how this helps you lead and see. The children then led their own games choosing one leader and then talking what makes a good leader, a child's response was, "they are a good leader because they are fun and clear." Miss Gooch

DIARY DATES:

22 November 2016

Individual and sibling group photographs

25 November 2016

PD day – pupils not in school.

1 December 2016

Christmas Disco

15 December 2016

EYFS Performance

19/20 December 2016

Yr 1 & Yr 2 Performance.

(Tickets for the disco and performances will only be available via parentmail.)



Inspiration

Y4 - Bumble Bees



Year 4 have been looking at the impact of change on habitats in our science. We had a visitor from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust who came in to talk to the year group about the loss of flower meadows and the impact this has on insects, bees and the rest of the food chain. We then got to have a look at some examples of Solitary Bee hives.



Y4 - Abracadavid



Yeah 4 had a very exciting afternoon on Monday. The magician, Abra Ca David, came into Gusford to help us mark the transition from our Science topic into our History, which looks at magicians through the ages. We learnt about how magicians can use science in their tricks. We learnt about indicator fluid changing different colours with acids. We learnt about static electricity, gravity and friction and how they can be used to make things levitate. We watched how to make carbon dioxide and use it to put out a flame, and even how to shoot air from a canon. We even learnt about optical illusions too.

